Interact

Co-funded by the European Union
Interreg

Fraud and irregularities in Interreg – prevention, detection, reporting and follow-up

3-4 November 2026
Hotel InterContinental Porto
Palacio Das Cardosas by IHG
Praça da Liberdade 25, 4000-322 Porto, Portugal





Strengthening prevention, detection, reporting and follow-up

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Outlines

Interact is organising a dedicated workshop on fraud, irregularities and conflicts of interest in Interreg, bringing together practical experience and the latest regulatory developments to support programme bodies in strengthening their management and control systems.

The workshop will focus on how to prevent, identify, report and follow up on irregularities, fraud and conflicts of interest through effective, proportionate and risk-based measures. It will combine the current regulatory framework with practical examples, including irregularities and suspected fraud, conflicts of interest, public procurement irregularities, financial corrections and relevant audit findings. Participants will also work through a fictional Interreg case, applying the concepts discussed to identify risks, assess red flags and determine appropriate preventive, corrective and follow-up measures. The workshop will further explore the implications under performance-based approach (P-BA), with particular attention to how programmes can maintain effective assurance against fraud and irregularities while placing emphasis on the achievement of agreed milestones and targets.

Objectives

The aim is to create a common understanding of the specific challenges related to fraud and irregularities in Interreg. This includes processes for identification, assessment, classification, programme response, reporting, corrective measures, and prevention. Particular attention will be given to the fact that P-BA changes the financing and verification model, however, it does not eliminate the risks of irregularities, fraud, and conflicts of interest. These risks remain relevant when financing is based on achieving milestones and targets rather than reimbursement of individual costs.

Target group

The event is primarily addressed to programme authorities, managing authorities, joint secretariats, national authorities, and national contact points. Nevertheless, all programme implementation bodies are welcome to participate.



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Day One – (local time)	**Tue, 3 November 2026**
8:30 – 09:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
9:00 – 09:30	*Introduction*
9:30 – 11:00	**Session 1: Fraud, irregularity, conflict of interest** *The objective of this session is to establish a common understanding of fraud, irregularities and conflicts of interest in the Interreg context. We will discuss where the risks can arise during programme and project implementation, and how to recognise and assess potential red flags.*
11:00 – 11:30	*Coffee break*
11:30 – 13:00	**Session 2: From detection to corrections, and follow-up** *This session will look at the steps that follow, from assessing the issue to reporting, applying financial corrections and following up. We will also discuss how to make sure the response is proportionate, consistent and well documented.*
13:00 – 14:30	*Lunch break*
14:30 – 15:30	**Session 3: Case study** *Participants will work in groups on a fictional case involving several different risks; the exercise will give them an opportunity to identify red flags, discuss what additional checks may be needed and decide how the programme should respond, including possible corrective and preventive measures.*
15:30 – 15:45	*Coffee break*
15:45 – 16:45	**Session 4: Public procurement and state aid** *Public procurement and state aid present particular risks during project implementation. This session will use practical examples to look at common issues, possible red flags, control approaches and how financial corrections may be applied.*
16:45 – 17:00	**Wrap up and key takeaways** *End of the first day*



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Day two – (local time)	**Wed, 4 November 2026**
8:45 – 9:00	*Registration and welcome coffee*
9:00 – 11:00	**Session 5: Reconnection and recap of the first day** *This session is to provide an overview of the key themes discussed on day one, address questions and issues raised by participants, and engage participants in discussion about fraud, irregularities, conflicts of interest, and financial corrections, using practical examples and shared experiences.*
11:00 – 11:30	*Coffee break*
11:30 – 12:30	**Session 6: Fraud and irregularity in the proposed Post 2027 framework** *What could the proposed Post-2027 framework mean for the way programmes deal with fraud and irregularities? We will look in particular at the implications of putting greater emphasis on performance, milestones and targets, and discuss how programmes can maintain effective assurance and protect EU financial interests.*
12:30 – 13:30	*Lunch break*
13:30 – 15:00	**Wrap-up and key takeaways** *We will bring together the main points from the two days and reflect on what they mean in practice for programme bodies. The session will also highlight issues that may need further discussion as Interreg moves towards more risk-based and performance-oriented approaches*
15:00	*End of the workshop*



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Practical information

The event will be held in English. Participation in the event is free of charge, however, registration is required.

Venue

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Praça da Liberdade 25, 4000-322 Porto, Portugal

Travel and accommodation

Participants are responsible for their travel arrangements.

Contact

For further questions, please contact:

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We look forward to meeting you in Porto!